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UNITED NATIONS CENTRE FOR HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Dr. Arcot Ramachandran, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) visited Australia between 15 and 23 October to attend the Second World Congress of Building Officials and the Third World Congress of the Metropolis Association.

The Second World Congress of Building Officials was held in Sydney, New South Wales, under the auspices of the Australian Institute of Building Surveyors. It was opened by the Governor-General of Australia, His Excellency the Honourable Bill Hayden, who spoke of the need for co-operation between the building officials of developed and developing countries. Dr.Ramachandran made a keynote statement on the subject of environmental impacts of the construction industry and of building developments. Dr.Ramachandran was presented with an award by Mr. Omkar Nath Channan, President of the World Organization of Building Officials, in recognition of his contribution to the enhancement of the world's built environment.

The Third World Congress of the Metropolis Association was held in Melbourne, Victoria, under the sponsorship of the Victorian Ministry for Planning and Environment. The Congress was opened by the Premier of the State of Victoria, Honourable Mrs.Joan Kirner, and was attended by representatives of metropolitan cities in developed and developing countries. Dr.Ramachandran gave a keynote address on Restructuring the Metropolitan Economy in which be emphasized the role that megacities will play in bringing about social and economic improvement in the developing countries.

The Congress adopted a Melbourne Declaration on Cities, with the following text:

Melbourne Declaration on Cities

1. **Recognizing that:**

   - Cities are at one and the same time the cradle of modern civilization and the motor of economic development and of technical, intellectual and cultural progress.

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- Cities and their metropolises are the location of the great changes of the world, and face enormous problems and challenges to administer their economic, transportation, housing, health, education, and environmental systems.

- The deterioration of the financial situation of many developing nationals poses a serious threat to metropolises in the developing world and to the needs of the millions of human beings who inhabit them.

- In this context, more than ever, the duty of representative governments of the major metropolises is to increase the performance of their cities while at the same time ensuring the well-being of their citizens.

- The large cities of the future will in great measure be built by the inhabitants themselves and that their needs must be acknowledged and facilitated by both politicians and professionals.

2. **The participants of the Metropolis '90 Congress in Melbourne endorse the conclusions reached by the working groups** set up by the Association following the Congress of Mexico in 1987 about city organization, transport management, the prevention of major hazards, the development and the integration of new population in the metropolis of the third world and the waste management, and **recommend that these conclusions be widely distributed to local and national governments.**

3. **The 3rd Congress of the Metropolis Association, at its meeting in Melbourne, concludes that:**

   - the great metropolises of the world face common problems, in their environment, in economic progress, in technological innovation and, in transportation; and all cities will need to find efficient solutions for their complex problems in the context of scarce resources and in relation to the needs of all regions of their national territories;

   - in the cities of the developed nations, the economic challenges are those of technological adaptation int he advanced tertiary industries, of productivity gain and efficiency, of completing or rebuilding their transportation and physical infrastructure systems; and of planning for the great environmental challenges; while they are about to experience the maturing of their populations, and of their job generation requirements;

- in the cities of the developing nations, the economic challenges are those of meeting the most basic human needs and the distressing social problems of 2 billion human beings -- of poverty, particularly of children, of health and education, of the investments necessary for economic growth, and of improved management and administration of these vast and complex human settlements, particularly using appropriate technologies.

Based upon these observations, the Metropolis Association recommends the following:

To integrate metropolises within their regional territories

This is a matter of extending the capacities and resources congregated in the metropolis to surrounding territories by organizing a continuous, well integrated zone. It is primarily communication technologies - that will permit this development.

To manage the Metropolitan Ecosystem

To be completely integrated, metropolises must control waste, and manage natural resources, renewable or non-renewable, taken from the environment. This approach must integrate neighbouring rural and semi-rural regions. Metropolitan management implies the strengthening of local planning teams and the establishment of strategic processes of concerted action instead of the prevalent regulatory approaches.

To ensure a Metropolis for Everyone

Even if the market economy brings an improvement in general well-being, a significant part of the population could nevertheless be excluded from these benefits. To alleviate poverty, and to avoid a two tiered city, the foundation of policies for the metropolis is to maintain social cohesion. This implies in particular that legal and administrative conditions be established to allow for a more effective participation of the various communities, with particular concern for the most vulnerable groups, the poor, the elderly, the children.

We, the members of Metropolis Association, resolve to:

. **Continue and further deepen the studies** of the working groups to focus their efforts of the understanding of the major issues and policies of the metropolises as mentioned above.

- **Ensure more concrete and durable co-operation** between the metropolises of the world in order to allow the exchange of knowledge, of expertise, and resources.

- **Move to a next stage of action** so that these ideas and expertise will be actively disseminated to its members and to the cities of the developing world.

- **Convey their knowledge and their concerns** to the existing international agencies and organizations, so that more effective programs and investments and financial assistance will be made for the development of the metropolises.

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